USARHAW Environment TODAY

Issue 24 **July 2002**

WASTEWATER SPILLS!
Aliamanu Military Reservation

Russell Leong
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Compliance Branch

Two (2) wastewater spills have occurred on Aliamanu Military Reservation since January 2002, both resulting from grease accumulation in the wastewater collection system. The wastewater generally discharges out of a sewer manhole, travels downhill, and enters into a storm drain inlet. The wastewater then continues in the storm drainpipes and eventually ends up in the storm drain.

Spill locations and dates:

- 3/10/2002, Vitex Place, Bldg. 1151, 400 gallons, grease-clogged pipe.
- 4/6/2002, Gardenia Loop, Bldg. 1738, 200 gallons, grease-clogged pipe.

See page 2 for **What Can I Do to Help Prevent Wastewater Spills?**

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Consumer Confidence Reports
Drinking Water Report Cards

William McGinnis
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Reporting on some of the best water in Hawaii! Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) containing water quality information were distributed in May and June for Army water systems, because consumers have the Right-to-Know what is in their drinking water and where it comes from before they turn on the tap. State of Hawaii, Department of Health, regulates water systems throughout the state including oversight of CCR requirements.

The US Army Garrison – Hawaii operates 4 Community Water Systems: Aliamanu Military Reservation, Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks (including Schofield Barracks East Range, Wheeler Army Airfield, Helemano Military Reservation, and Kunia Field Station), and Tripler Army Medical Center. CCRs are being direct bulk-mailed to residents in family housing and through office distribution to units and offices on these installations. For each of these four water systems, CCRs are prepared and distributed annually to communicate to drinking water consumers information on source, treatment, and monitoring of their drinking water.

On Oahu, source water supplying Army water systems is pumped from deep groundwater wells. In accordance with Army regulation each of our water systems treats drinking water with a disinfectant and supplements drinking water with fluoride. Fluoride is added to drinking water to promote developing healthy teeth in children.

See page 3 for more information about CCRs.

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What Can I Do to Help Prevent Wastewater Spills?

Each member of your family can implement best management practices at home. These practices include:

- **DO** report any wastewater discharging out of the ground or sewer manhole. Call Agbayani-Shinco at 839-5399 to report wastewater spills.
- **DO** capture cooled cooking oils, fats, and grease by placing them in sealed containers for disposal in your kitchen trash can.
- **DO** dry-wipe your plates and cookware. Dispose of the food and grease in your kitchen trash bag.
- **DO** use sink screens to capture food waste.
- **DO** post this notice in a public place.
- **DON'T** use your garbage disposal unit. Instead, capture all food waste and dispose of it into the trash bag.
- **DON'T** dispose of sanitary napkins, hand towels, paper towels, or cloth rags into the toilet. These items do not dissolve when exposed to water. These items can cause the sewer pipe to become clogged and result in a wastewater spill. Toilet tissue is the only material designed to dissolve.
- **DON'T** let your children play in the storm drain channels.

Why should I be concerned?

If this had been an emergency, you would have been notified immediately. However, wastewater contains bacteria and viruses that can produce diseases such as hepatitis, cholera, and typhoid fever. Surfaces that are exposed to wastewater may become contaminated with bacteria and viruses.

What was done?

Wastewater pipes and manholes are cleaned on an annual basis. Areas historically having more wastewater spills are cleaned on a quarterly basis. When a wastewater spill occurs, the wastewater pipes and manholes are cleaned to remove the clog and ground surfaces exposed to wastewater are cleaned and disinfected. Wastewater that enters the storm drain channel is captured and pumped back into the wastewater collection system. Warning signs are posted along the storm drain channel, and water quality samples are taken. When the bacteria levels drop to a safe level, the warning signs are removed.

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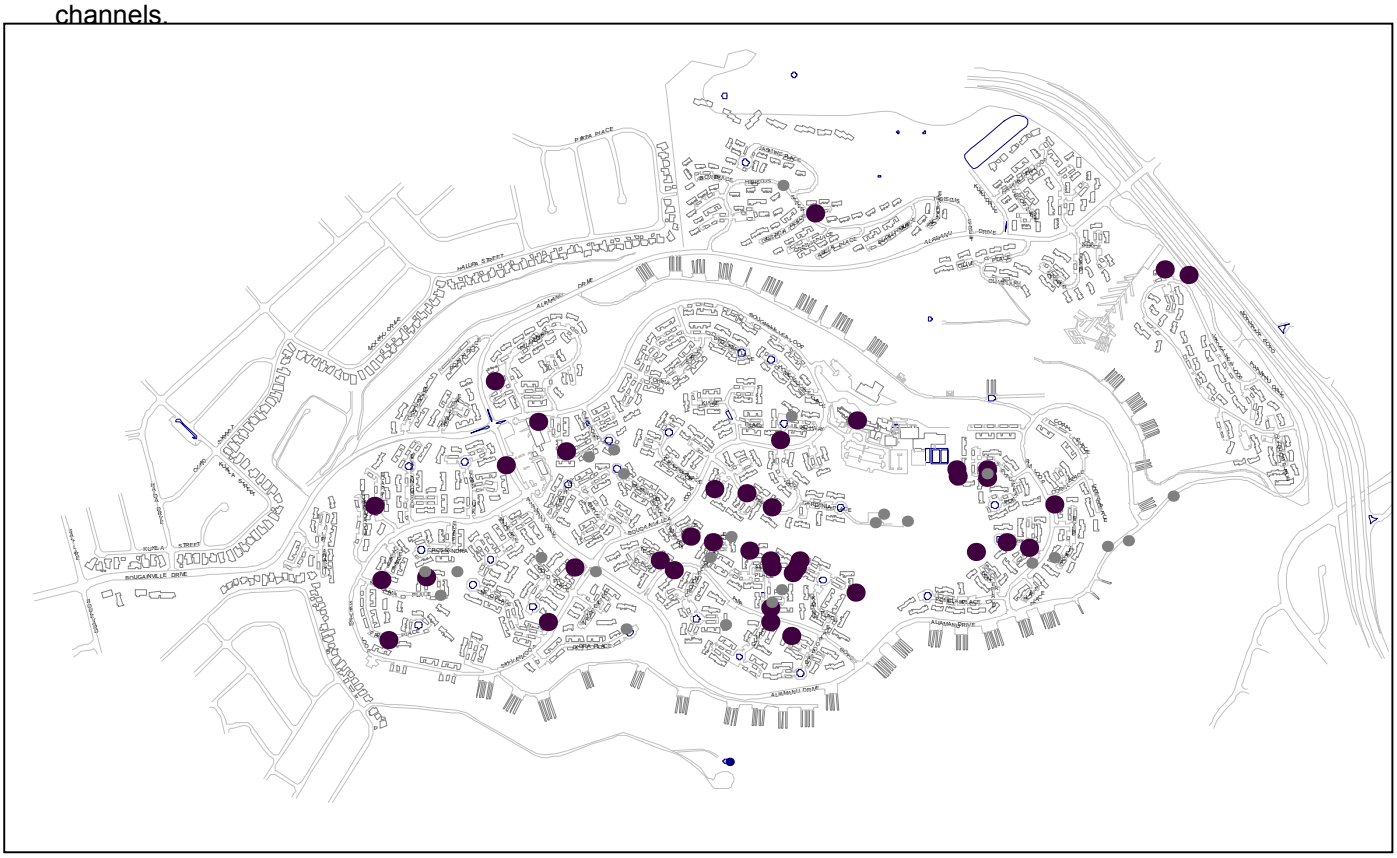


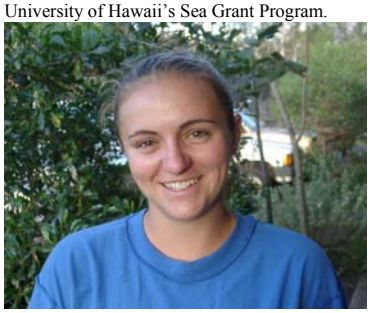
ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION

Please review this map. The large dots represent wastewater spills due to grease-clogged lines. The small dots represent wastewater spills from other causes. If you are located near the dots, we ask for your sustained and heightened vigilance in implementing the previously discussed "DO's" and "DON'Ts" notice. Thank you for assistance in helping keep a clean environment!

WELCOME!!
NEW NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS!

SPRINGER FRYBERG has worked as an RCUH Natural Resource Specialist since October 2001. She grew up in Manoa on Oahu and studied Environmental Science at Pomona College in California. She has also worked for Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, Hawaii DLNR, and USGS. She spent the last few years at Hakalau Wildlife Refuge on the Big Island conducting fieldwork.

JANE BEACHY has been working as an RCUH Natural Resource Specialist since August 2001. She is from Kahaluu on Oahu and majored in Environmental Science and Public Policy at Harvard University in Massachusetts. She has also worked for The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant Program.



LASHA-LYNN SALBOSA has worked as an RCUH Natural Resources Specialist since October 2001. She majored in Zoology and minored in Ecology and Sustainable Development at Washington State University. She is from Waianae Valley, Oahu, and has worked for The Nature Conservancy, Haleakala National Park, and the Hawaii Agricultural Research Center.

NAOMI ARCAND began working as an RCUH Natural Resources Specialist in January 2002. She majored in Conservation Biology and Psychology and minored in Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Naomi is originally from Minnesota and worked with the Sierra Club in Madison, as a field research assistant in Yellowstone National Park, and in the horticulture industry on the Mainland and in Hawaii.

Drinking Water CCRs *(continued from page 1)*

Each water system's CCR contains a table detailing any contaminants detected, the concentration and whether the level exceeded the EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Information about associated health effects is provided for any contaminants detected. Every year, contaminant information is derived from analysis of water samples collected to meet rigorous monitoring requirements. Sampling is performed at the source wells, throughout the distribution system and even at individual taps. Samples are analyzed for lists of regulated contaminants, unregulated contaminants, disinfection by-products, and microbial contaminants.

Requirements for CCRs can be found in the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, 40 CFR 141 Subpart O and 40 CFR 142. For additional information about drinking water, access the US EPA Office of Water, Groundwater and Drinking Water internet site (http://www.epa.gov/safewater/), contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or call the DPW Environmental Division Drinking Water Program Manager at 656-2878.

ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIAL AND LEAD-BASED PAINT

Malcolm Fong
DPW, Environmental
Compliance Branch

Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM) and Lead-Based Paint (LBP) were commonly used in the construction trade until the late 1970s and are commonly found in many older homes and buildings. Here at the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), the Environmental Division performs ACM and LBP hazard risk assessments for Family Housing units and Operating and Maintenance Accounts (OMA) buildings. The purpose of these assessments is to determine if ACM and/or LBP hazards are present.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establish the regulations for LBP. LBP is defined as paint with levels equal to or exceeding 0.5% lead by weight. Therefore, any applied paint with a lead concentration greater than or equal to the defined criteria must be managed as LBP.

A house or building that contains LBP is not a hazard and is safe if properly managed. This LBP could become a hazard if it is damaged or deteriorated or if lead dust is present. LBP hazards could also exist in houses if there is evidence of teeth marks on any chewable LBP surface.

The EPA and Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provide guidelines that apply to ACM. They define ACM as any material containing at least 1 % asbestos. ACM that is in good condition and non-friable (cannot be reduced to a powder by hand pressure) poses no health hazard.

As stated previously, ACM and LBP are not health hazards if the materials are in good condition. If you have any suspected areas that are damaged, call the Quality Control Branch at 656-5141 ext. 2042 or the DPW Service Order Desk at 656-1275 to have an assessment done. These assessments will determine the condition and identify any ACM and/or LBP that could present a potential health hazard to the occupants.

U.S. ARMY, HAWAII

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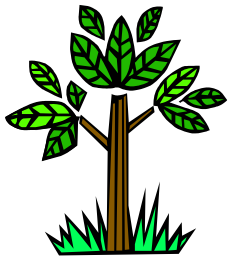

USAG-HI RECYCLING PROGRAM

A. Establish office paper bag stations at strategic locations throughout a building. Request for bag stations can be made by contacting POC identified below.

B. Fill all bags until each is full but not overstuffed.

C. Drop off bags of office paper at Building 1087B, Schofield Barracks, Monday through Friday, between 0730 and 1600 hours, except on Federal holidays.

D. On-call pick-ups are available. Coordinate collection of recyclable material throughout the entire building prior to requesting a pick-up. To request a pick-up, please call the Recycling Pick-Up Request Line at 655-0011.

E. Only white office paper, white computer paper, and newspaper can be recycled. Office paper and computer paper can be collected together, but newspaper needs to be kept separate. Colored paper, filmed newspaper inserts, carbon paper, plastic bindings, paper clips, or any other contaminants should be removed and discarded into the trash.

F. Confetti-like shredded paper is currently not recyclable and, therefore, will not be accepted by the Army Recycling Center. Confetti-like shredded paper should be thrown in the trash.

G. A replacement bag will be given for each bag dropped off or collected.

H. Activities can request office paper recycling stations or more bags by calling the Army Recycling Center.

I. The POC is Mr. Patrick Ching, Environmental Division, DPW, 656-2878 x1021.